



Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

Rock County

County characteristics

- 726 sq. mi., population 152,307 (2000 census)
- Northern 1/4 former prairie/oak savanna with interspersed wetlands, southwest corner rolling hills adjacent to the sandy flood plain of the Sugar River, remainder of the county was prairie. Most of the prairie and wetlands have been converted to farmland.
- Waters: 25 warm-water streams including 2 exceptional resource waters; 3 trout streams, 54.9 miles on the Rock, Sugar and Yahara Rivers; 19 lakes including nearly 800 acres of Lake Koshkonong.
- 25,695 licensed anglers and 14,730 hunters and trappers reside in Rock County



State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing

- 7,250 acres of wildlife and fisheries lands and an additional 9,250 acres leased for a wildlife refuge and for public hunting. About 14,700 acres are open to hunting.

Our Wildlife and Fisheries lands are operated with license dollars. You can locate DNR properties for all your outdoor activities at:

http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_land_mapping.html

Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you

- 1 Wildlife biologist and 1 Fisheries biologist (both also serve as supervisors for several other counties); 1 Fisheries technician; 2 Conservation Wardens; 2.5 Customer Service Representatives (1/2 time position is vacant) Office: 2514 Morse Street, Janesville, 53545 Wildlife and Fisheries staff members also have responsibility for parts of Dane, Green and Jefferson counties.

Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars

- Conduct an intensive effort working with hunters and landowners to reduce deer population in the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Disease Eradication Zone to eliminate CWD from the county.
- Monitor the deer herd for CWD, including testing 760 deer for CWD in 2004.
- Establish and maintain grassland and wetland habitat for ducks, pheasants, and other wildlife species. Preserve and restore original prairie remnants on public lands. Established two prairie seed nurseries to provide local ecotype prairie seed for local habitat projects.
- Wardens patrol the entire county to insure compliance with license requirements and in response to calls from citizens. They enforce hunting, trapping and fishing regulations and protect the state properties from misuse - last year, there were arrests made for construction of permanent tree stands and blinds, vandalism to gates, and driving off-road.
- Manage DNR land by posting public hunting and access sites, build and maintain parking areas.

- Control exotic and invasive species such as purple loosestrife, wild parsnip, spotted knapweed, thistle, goldenrod, boxelder, honeysuckle, and buckthorn to assure quality native habitat.
- Additional 6 miles of trout water with restoration activities at Allen, Spring and Raccoon Creeks
- Monitor local wildlife populations of ducks, geese, pheasants, woodcock and deer, and problems with urban wildlife (primarily geese and deer)
- Evaluate proposed transportation and other projects for environmental impacts, mitigate damage to wildlife and habitat.
- Wardens respond to 80 Hotline complaints from citizens
- Provide educational programs for schools, conservation organizations and civic groups including career days, trapper education

County Conservation Snapshots

- Public Access improvements have been made on all water bodies over 50 acres.
- Boat launching is available at 15 public access sites including 10 launches on the Rock River and Lake Koshkonong. Four sites are state-owned.
- 10 Deer and Turkey registration stations set up to provide for 4 distinct seasonal registration and specimen collection needs

Fish & Wildlife Stocking Summary

8 lakes, 3 rivers and 3 streams will annually receive approximately

- 1,200 brown trout
- 3,000 rainbow trout
- 500 brook trout
- 80,000 walleye fingerlings
- Normally 4,000 rooster pheasants are stocked on 5 Wildlife Areas and leased Public Hunting Grounds, although this was reduced to 1,340 birds in 2004 due to budget shortfalls.

County Success Stories

- The Friends of the Storr's Lake Wildlife Area have completed many habitat projects and sponsors youth groups for litter pick-up projects.
- The Rock River Valley Chapter of Pheasants Forever has adopted the Evansville Wildlife Area, also completing many habitat improvement projects and an annual litter pick-up project.
- Wild brook trout have been restored in Raccoon Creek.
- Smallmouth bass have made a comeback in the Rock River
- Removal of 3 fish barriers (dams) on Turtle Creek, Bass Creek, and the Yahara Rivers

Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
 - Fish and wildlife stocking programs: Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management



Fisheries Biologist measures smallmouth bass from Turtle Creek